

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claims have been amended as follows: Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface, without a mechanical aid, which comprises the step of contacting said surface with a composition comprising an effective dislodging amount of a detergent and an effective dislodging amount of a salt-forming acid, said acid and its corresponding salt being capable of displacing divalent cations present in the structure of said biofilm, with the proviso that said composition is not a mixture achieving an aqueous final concentration of ~~about~~ 1% to ~~about~~ 2% SDS and ~~about~~ 1% EDTA, or 1% SDS and 0.1% or less EDTA or ~~about~~ 1% to ~~about~~ 2% SDS and mandelic and lactic acids, each at an individual concentration of ~~about~~ 1% or in a combined concentration of ~~about~~ 2%, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm, all percentages representing weight per volume concentrations.
42. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said composition further comprises an effective amount of a bactericide.
43. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said detergent is SDS, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1% or any detergent having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto.
44. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 43, wherein said equivalent detergent is CPC or CPB at a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%.
45. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said detergent is SDS, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least

- ~~about~~ 0.1% or any detergent having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto.
46. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said equivalent detergent is CPC or CPB at a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%.
 47. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1 % or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.
 48. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein both said acid and bactericide are mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1% or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.
 49. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is EDTA which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.25% or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.
 50. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said acid is EDTA which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.25% or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.
 51. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration range of at least ~~about~~ 0.1 % at a working pH value.
 52. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein both bactericide and said acid are mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration range of at least ~~about~~ 0.1 % at a working pH value.

53. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is one or more of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, mandelic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine.
54. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said acid is one or more of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, mandelic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine.
55. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide or any bactericide having a bactericidal potency and host spectrum substantially equivalent thereto.
56. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 55, wherein said equivalent bactericide is mandelic acid, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, CPC or CPB.
57. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 56, wherein mandelic acid, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, CPC or CPB achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least 0.1%, 0.1%, 0.5%, 0.1% and 0.1 %, respectively.
58. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said composition further comprises a biofilm dislodging enhancer agent.
59. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said composition further comprises a biofilm dislodging enhancer agent.

60. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 58, wherein said enhancer agent is a calcium chelator.
61. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 59, wherein said enhancer agent is a calcium chelator.
62. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 60, wherein both said calcium chelator and acid are EDTA which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.25 % or any calcium chelator having a chelating potency substantially equivalent thereto.
63. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 61, wherein both said calcium chelator and acid are EDTA which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.25 % or any calcium chelator having a chelating potency substantially equivalent thereto.
64. (Previously Presented) A method as defined claim 58 wherein said enhancer agent is a chaotropic agent.
65. (Previously Presented) A method as defined claim 59 wherein said enhancer agent is a chaotropic agent.
66. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 64, wherein both said chaotropic agent and detergent are SDS which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1% or any chaotropic agent having a chaotropic potency substantially equivalent thereto.
67. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 65, wherein both said chaotropic agent and detergent are SDS which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1 % or any chaotropic agent having a chaotropic potency substantially equivalent thereto.
68. (Currently Amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface without a mechanical aid, comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which comprises an effective dislodging amount of a detergent and an effective dislodging

amount of a salt-forming acid; said detergent being selected from sodium dodecyl sulfate, sodium n-decyl diphenylether disulfonate, sodium cocoyl sarcosinate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaureate, cetylpyridinium bromide and cetylpyridinium chloride; said acid being selected from the group consisting of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic, ethylenediamine tetraacetic, N-(hydroxyethyl) ethylenediamine triacetic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine, with the proviso that said composition is neither a mixture achieving a final concentration of ~~about 1% to about 2% SDS and about 1% EDTA~~, of 1% SDS and 0.1% or less EDTA, or of ~~about 1% to about 2% SDS and~~ mandelic and lactic acids, each at an individual concentration of ~~about 1% or in a combined concentration of about 2%, of about 0.25% SDS, about 2% sodium benzoate and about 0.2% sodium salicylate, nor a mixture of about 0.1 to about 0.3% SDS or SDDD, about 0.1 to about 0.3% SCS or SLS, about 0.1% zinc sulfate, acetate, nitrate or gluconate salts and about 0.1 to 0.3% HEEDTA, EDTA or DTPA~~ all percentages representing final weight per volume concentrations, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

69. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 68, wherein said composition further comprises a bactericide selected from mandelic acid, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, CPC and CPB.
70. (Currently Amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about 0.1% but less than about 1% SDS~~, at least ~~about 0.1% but less than about 1%~~ salt-forming acid and at least ~~about 0.25% but less than about 1% EDTA~~, said acid being selected from one or more of 2-ketoglutaric, mandelic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, L-aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic acids and DL-alanine, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

71. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 70, wherein said composition further comprises an effective amount of a bactericide.
72. (Currently Amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1% SDS, at least ~~about~~ 0.1% of a salt-forming acid, and at least ~~about~~ 0.25% EDTA, said acid being one or more of 2-ketoglutaric, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic acids and alanine, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.
73. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 72, wherein said composition further comprises an effective amount of a bactericide.
74. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 71, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide at a final concentration of ~~about~~ 5%, or phenol at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1%, or sodium hypochlorite at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%, or CPC or CPB at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%.
75. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 73, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide at a final concentration of ~~about~~ 5%, or phenol at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.1%, or sodium hypochlorite at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%, or CPC or CPB at concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5%.
76. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, achieves a final concentration of at least ~~about~~ 0.5% CPC or CPB, ~~about~~ 0.25% to 1% EDTA, ~~about~~ 1% of a salt-forming acid selected from mandelic, glycolic, fumaric, citric and phosphoric acids or a mixture thereof, and a buffering agent to achieve a pH of about 7.5 or higher, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.
77. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41 wherein said composition achieves a final concentration of SDS 0.25%, sodium benzoate 2% and sodium salicylate 0.2%.

78. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41 wherein said composition achieves a final concentration of 0.1 - 0.3% SDS or SDDD, 0.1 - 0.3% SCS or SLS, 0.1% zinc sulfate, acetate, nitrate or gluconate salts and 0.1 - 0.3% HEEDTA, EDTA or DTPA.
79. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said time is at least one hour.
80. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said time is comprised between about 1 and about 18 hours.